

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SAHARA: SPAIN DISAPPOINTED WITH TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

A SPANISH OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY MADRID THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED LATE NOVEMBER 13 AMONG SPAIN, MOROCCO, AND MAURITANIA ON THE SPANISH SAHARA IS A "BAD AGREEMENT" BUT NECESSARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. ALTHOUGH THE GOS HAS BEEN TIGHT-LIPPED ON THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE OFFICIAL INTIMATED:

--THE GOS WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE UN'S INACTION AND IS CONCERNED THAT THE UN MIGHT NOW UPSET THE ACCORD, CAUSING A RETURN TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

--THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH  
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"LOCAL TRIBAL LEADERS."

--TRIBAL AFFINITIES BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND SOME OF THE F POLISARIO FOLLOWERS WILL COMPLICATE MOROCCO'S PROBLEM--NOT SPAIN'S--OF SUPPRESSING INSURGENCY.

--SPAIN WANTS TO AVOID HOSTILITIES AT ALL COSTS, SINCE ANY SITUATION CAUSING "WHITE SPANIARDS" TO SHOOT AT MOROCCANS, SAHARANS, OR OTHERS WOULD IMPERIL SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH A HOST OF COUNTRIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOS APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT THE RISK TO ITS RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA IS LESS THAN A BLOODLETTING BETWEEN ARAB MOROCCO AND SPAIN. WHETHER OR NOT THE AGREEMENT HAS SUCCEEDED IN MEETING SPAIN'S BIGGEST PREOCCUPATION, THE PROTECTION OF ITS ENERGY SUPPLIES, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7997, 11/14.

## 2. SPAIN: JUAN CARLOS SETS NEW PACE

PRINCE JUAN CARLOS HAS SCORED POINTS WITH THE SPANISH PRESS AND PUBLIC IN HIS FIRST TEN DAYS AS HEAD OF STATE. EMBASSY MADRID OBSERVES:

--THE PRESS HAS GIVEN HIM GREAT CREDIT FOR HELPING DEFUSE THE SAHARA CRISIS.

--THE PRINCE SET AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT BY CHAIRING MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL, WHICH AFFORDS HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN CLOSEST TOUCH WITH THE MILITARY LEADERS.

--HIS ESTABLISHMENT OF A STUDY COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION OF THE BASQUE PROVINCES SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING POLITICAL STEPS TO COPE WITH THE BASQUE PROBLEM RATHER THAN STRICTLY REPRESSIVE MEASURES.

HOWEVER, FRANCO'S HOLDING ON TO LIFE HAS IMPEDED JUAN CARLOS' ABILITY TO ALTER INGRAINED HARDLINE PRACTICES, AS  
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EVIDENCED BY A RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONFISCATIONS AND CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS AND THE FINING OF SIX PRIESTS FOR CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE RIGHT MEANWHILE CONTINUES TO EXPLOIT THE INTERREGNUM, WARNING SPANIARDS OF THE DANGERS OF CHANGE, WHILE STEPPING UP VIOLENT AND INTIMIDATING ACTIVITIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7985, 11/13.

3. DOES SYRIA FEAR CONTAMINATION FROM EGYPT'S  
"DENASSERIZATION"?

THE AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR IN THE SYRIAN FOREIGN  
MINISTRY HAS TOLD EMBASSY DAMASCUS THAT ECONOMIC AND

IDEOLOGICAL AS WELL AS PURELY POLITICAL CONCERNS ARE  
BEHIND SYRIA'S HARSH OPPOSITION TO THE SINAI ACCORD.  
NOTING EGYPT'S EXPECTATIONS OF AN INFLUX OF WESTERN  
CAPITAL, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT BAATHIST LEADERS ARE  
SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE DOMESTIC LIBERALIZATION WHICH WOULD  
FOLLOW. HE ADDED:

--WHILE THE ASAD REGIME IS LESS OPPRESSIVE THAN ITS  
PREDECESSORS, TOLERATION FOR DOMESTIC FREEDOMS IS  
INCREASING SLOWLY AT BEST.

--ASAD SENSES HIS REGIME COULD NOT SURVIVE TOTAL  
PEACE AND THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF INCREASED  
FREEDOM THAT WOULD FOLLOW.

--BAATHIST LEADERS THEREFORE WANT TO KEEP EGYPT AT  
ARM'S LENGTH. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 4532, 11/14.

4. HANOI DOMINANCE ANTAGONIZING SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

FORMAL REUNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM WILL TAKE  
PLACE IN MARCH 1976, PREDICTS AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
DIRECTOR FOR HANOI JEAN THORAVAL. IN A CONVERSATION WITH  
CONGEN HONG KONG, THORAVAL CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL  
MAY NOT BE WELL BETWEEN HANOI AND SAIGON, AND ADDED:

--SOUTHERNERS IN GENERAL AND THE PRG IN PARTICULAR  
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HAVE LITTLE CLOUT IN PRESENT DAY VIETNAM.

--NORTHERNERS HAVE TAKEN OVER IN THE SOUTH TO A  
SURPRISING EXTENT EVEN TO OCCUPYING CUSTOMS IN-  
SPECTOR AND HOTEL CLERK POSITIONS.

--THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, ESTIMATED IN HANOI AT 10-  
12,000 TROOPS, IS NOT SEEN AS A SERIOUS THREAT TO  
THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

CONGEN COMMENT: THE HANOI LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY FEELS  
THAT IT HAS GOTTEN AS MUCH MILEAGE AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THE  
TWO-ZONES CONCEPT AND NOW SEEMS READY TO END THE CHARADE.  
IF NORTHERNERS ARE CREATING A HANOI RULING CLASS IN THE  
SOUTH, HOWEVER, SOUTHERN ANTAGONISM WILL GROW, EXACERBAT-

ING EXISTING PROBLEMS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) HONG KONG  
13572, 11/14.

5. NO PROGRESS IN UNGA ON CYPRUS RESOLUTION

DESPITE MUCH BACKSTAGE MANEUVERING, LITTLE PROGRESS WAS  
MADE ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION NOVEMBER 14, USUN REPORTS.  
THE NONALIGNED GROUP WILL MAKE ONE LAST TRY AT A COM-  
PROMISE DRAFT OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH DEBATE TO RESUME IN  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EITHER TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 5982, 11/14. INGERSOLL

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